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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Monday, May 02, 2011

SUPREME COURT AMENDS ACOTHLEY V. PERRY OPINION

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation Supreme Court has issued an order amending the opinion in Acothley v. Perry with regard only to the payment of juror fees.

At the time the opinion was issued on March 1, 2011, the district courts had no funds allocated for juror fees in the district court budgets due to the extremely low number of jury trials that have been held during the last five years. The March 1, 2011 opinion required defendants requesting jury trials to pay for the juror fees themselves.

Since its March 1, 2011 opinion, the Judicial Branch has been able to move limited funds from other branch programs to allocate to juror fees. Therefore, some funds will be available in court budgets for a portion of the cases.

The new April 29, 2011 order provides that the district courts will pay in full for juror fees until available funds are depleted. After funds are depleted, defendants requesting jury trials will have to pay for the juror fees estimated on how long a trial may last with amounts to be capped at the same amounts as in the March 1, 2011 opinion.

The amended order is available on the www.navajocourts.org website.

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